

Regular Meeting
Monday, March 1, 2010
6:00 pm
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street
Edenton, NC

MINUTES

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Monday, March 1, 2010 at 6:00pm in the lobby of the Chowan County Public Safety Center, 305 West Freemason Street, Edenton, NC.

Present, Chairman Eddy Goodwin, Vice Chairman Emmett Winborne, Commissioner Jimmy Alligood, Commissioner Louis Belfield, Commissioner Kenny Goodwin, Commissioner Ralph Cole, and Commissioner Keith Nixon. Staff present: County Manager Peter Rascoe, Finance Officer Lisa Jones, and Clerk to the Board Susanne Stallings.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin called the meeting to order. He then led the group in prayer followed by the invocation.

Public Comment

Chairman Eddy Goodwin then opened the floor to public comment in accordance with NCGS 153A-52.1

Les Kersey, 3065 Connors Drive, Edenton, NC stated his concern over inactivity with developments that have been approved making changes to existing plats. He asked if public hearings would be held to review changes with plats.

Mr. Rascoe stated that any changes to the plat would require hearings and review processes. He added that the County continues to monitor the status of Phase I and Phase II at RiverSound.

Norman Brinkley stated his concern about reducing taxes after the County's budget is balanced. He also stated his concern over hiring procedures for County Departments.

Mr. Rascoe stated that any excess revenues would come back to public programs. Mr. Rascoe stated that he has discussed this previously with Mr. Brinkley over his concern for the need for diversity in County Departments. Mr. Rascoe stated that the county considers diversity a priority and recruits diverse candidates.

Nancy Morgan with Three Rivers Healthy Carolinians requested time during public comment to briefly provide the Board of Commissioners with the Community Health Assessment for Chowan County and also provide information on the Diabetes Education Day. (a copy of the reports is in the meeting file labeled March 1, 2010.)

Akilah Ensley provided the Board of Commissioners and the public with information on the upcoming mailings and additional information on the 2010 Census which begins in March 2010.

There was no further public comment.

Consent Agenda

All items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. If a County Commissioner requests discussion on an item, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

a. Tax Release and Collector's Report (attached)

Clayton, T.	\$116.84	Sold Vehicle
Donaldson, K.	\$102.42	SITUS – Surry County
Lane, D.	\$173.54	Vehicle put on wrong account
Pachol, B.	\$105.92	Vehicle turned in
Stevens, J.	\$115.64	SITUS – New York
Watson, M.	\$319.56	SITUS – Beaufort
Whitehurst, W.	\$162.41	Vehicle sold
Saunders, M.	\$102.03	Untimely Death – Hardship
Ward, J.	\$206.09	Should not have been late listed

b. Minutes

Minutes of the February 1, 2010 meeting.

c. Recommended Budget Amendments

BA-0910-101

3616	Misc	\$ 2,628	Increase revenue from insurance proceeds for vehicle accidents
43108	Sheriff	\$ 2,628	Increase expense to repair vehicles damaged in accidents

BA-0910-102

3326	Soil & Water	\$ 306	Increase revenue from NCDENR for storm water monitoring contractor
4730	Soil & Water	\$ 306	Increase expense to disburse contract revenue to Soil & Water Board

BA-0910-103

3815	TDA	\$ 1,000	Appropriate TDA fund balance from Music & Water Festival donations received in FY 08-09I
3839	TDA	<u>\$ 3,000</u>	Increase revenue from donations to be received for June 2010 Music & Water Festival
		\$ 4,000	
8150	TDA	\$ 4,000	Increase expense for June 2010 Music & Water Festival activities

BA-0910-104

3839	Misc	\$ 1,125	Increase revenue from Net Change for leasing water tower space
7120	Water	\$ 1,125	Increase "Designated for Future Appropriation"

BA-0910-105

3471	Solid Waste	\$ 15,000	Increase revenue from NCDENR for scrap tire grants
4710	Solid Waste	\$ 15,000	Increase expense to disburse scrap tire grants to PCG Landfill Commission for scrap tire disposal expenses

BA-0910-106

3531	DSS	\$23,218	Increase revenue from DHHS for Crisis Intervention Program
5372	DSS	\$23,218	Increase expense for Crisis Intervention payments for client heating costs

BA-0910-107

3418	Deeds	\$ 500	Increase revenue from Register of Deeds fees set aside for automation/preservation fund
4180	Deeds	\$ 500	Increase expense for Register of Deeds automation upgrades and document preservation per NCGS 161-11.3

Being no discussion on the consent agenda, Commissioner Jimmy Alligood moved that the consent agenda be approved as submitted. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Mental Health – Negotiations and Public Hearing

Mr. Rascoe recommended that the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Manager to begin immediate negotiations on a contract with East Carolina Behavioral Health (ECBH) to provide mental health services in Chowan County in accordance with the requirements of NCGS

122C-115(a). Negotiations will include type of service and fee discussion, as well as county representation on the ECBH Board. He added that Mr. Roy Wilson has indicated that there will be no per capita expense for the County unless additional services are requested by the County.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin asked if the County would be statutorily covered with no additional contribution to Mental Health

Mr. Rascoe stated that was correct.

Commissioner Nixon clarified that East Carolina Behavioral Health would continue to receive revenues from the ABC Commission.

Commissioner Cole clarified that approval of the recommendations would also withdraw Chowan County from the Mental Health umbrella.

Commissioner Winborne asked if there was an update on the County's financial obligations to Albemarle Mental Health.

Mr. Rascoe stated that this is still in negotiations and it appears that there is a liability to the state in the amount of \$400,000.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin moved that the Board authorize the County Manager to begin immediate negotiations on a contract with East Carolina Behavioral Health and also declare and authorize 10-day publication for a public hearing at its April 5, 2010 meeting as required by NCGS 122C-115.3(c) to hear comment on the County's proposed *withdrawal* from Albemarle Mental Health Area Authority.

Being no further discussion, Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Sales Tax Resolution

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin stated that the Finance Sub Committee has brought forth the following item for Board discussion. He noted that there was no recommendation from the Committee. He stated that in the Board agenda packets was a resolution for the Board's consideration that calls for a special advisory referendum concerning the levy of a one-quarter cent (1/4¢) County Sales and Use Tax.

Commissioner Alligood stated that he felt this was a fair tax.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin described the sales tax to the public. He asked for any public comment.

Henry White, 1255 Macedonia Road, Edenton state that he felt a sales tax would put local business owners even further away from a competitive advantage with neighboring businesses. He stated that the tax in Virginia is lower than North Carolina already. He stated he did not feel this was a way to find additional revenues.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin stated that this tax removes additional property tax for property owners.

Commissioner Nixon stated that as a past business owner he felt that it was most fair to put this on the ballot for the public to vote on in November. He said that the Board received calls because citizens felt that they had to carry the burden in property tax in previous years. He stated that while sales tax is down, and the decision was hard to make, he felt it fair to let the voters decide on the matter.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin noted that 10 North Carolina counties are considering the levy while 10 additional counties have it in place.

Commissioner Alligood moved to approve the resolution calling for a special advisory referendum for the ¼ cent county sales and use tax.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A SPECIAL ADVISORY REFERENDUM
CONCERNING THE LEVY OF A ONE-QUARTER CENT (1/4¢) COUNTY
SALES AND USE TAX**

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has enacted the “One-Quarter Cent (1/4¢) County Sales and Use Tax Act,” Article 46 of Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes (Session Law 2007-323), which authorizes counties to levy a local sales and use tax; and

WHEREAS, in order to levy the local sales and use tax, the County of Chowan must conduct an advisory referendum in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes Section 163-287;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Chowan:

Section 1. In accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes, a special advisory referendum is hereby called to be held between the normal time the polls are open, on Tuesday, November 2, 2010, at which there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the County of Chowan the question set forth in Section 3 of this Resolution.

Section 2. The Chowan County Board of Elections shall conduct said Referendum.

Section 3: The ballot question shall be in the following form:

“[☐] FOR [☐] AGAINST

Local sales and use tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%)
in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes.”

Section 4: The Clerk to the Board of Commissioners is authorized and directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Chowan County Board of Elections within three (3) days after the passage hereof.

Section 5: The Board of Elections shall publish legal notice of the special advisory referendum in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes Section 163-287.

Section 6: This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

Thereupon, upon motion of Commissioner Alligood,
(No second required) the foregoing resolution entitled "RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A SPECIAL ADVISORY REFERENDUM CONCERNING THE LEVY OF AN ONE-QUARTER CENT (1/4¢) COUNTY SALES AND USE TAX" was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 Noes: 0

This the 1st day of March, 2010

Resolution – Mosquito Control

Mr. Rascoe stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the County manager to apply to NCDENR for grant funds for annual mosquito control costs. Any match funds associated with an awarded grant would have to be budgeted. He stated that this resolution allows the County Manager to make an application for a grant and designate a staff person to apply with no obligations for grant money. He stated that the Board will vote on funding a match but are not obligated to fund it. He added that this will fund the chemicals, overtime and equipment maintenance not the full time staff that was once employed by Albemarle Regional Health Services. Mr. Rascoe added that the County has some chemicals.

Being no further discussion, Commissioner Cole moved that the Board approve the resolution as submitted.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

RESOLUTION TO BE ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DESIGNATING OFFICIAL TO SIGN PAPERS AND TO OTHERWISE REPRESENT
THE BOARD IN CONNECTIONS WITH MOSQUITO CONTROL

Upon motion of Commissioner Ralph Cole,
(Name)

seconded by N/A,
(Name)

it is here by ordered that J. Peter Pascoe, III,
(Name)

as agent for Chowan County Board of Commissioners,
(Governmental Unit)

is hereby authorized and empowered to sign and execute all papers and documents necessary in connection with the request made to the Division of Environmental Health, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, for aid in control of mosquitoes. (S) He is further authorized and required to carry out all agreements stipulated in the project application submitted by us to the Division of Environmental Health, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and to perform other acts that are proper and necessary in connection with the operation of this project. Acts of said person on behalf of said

Chowan County Board of Commissioners,
(Governmental Unit) are in all respects validated, approved and confirmed.

The undersigned Susanne Stallings,
(Name)

clerk of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that the
(Governing Unit)

foregoing is a true copy of the resolution of the

Chowan County Board of Commissioners at
(Governing Unit)

a meeting held on the 1st day of March, 2010.

Susanne Stallings
Clerk

Resolution – 100th Birthday

Chairman Eddy Goodwin stated that family and friends of Flora Banks have requested that the Board consider a resolution honoring Ms. Banks on the celebration of her 100th Birthday. He then asked the Board members to stand to signify approval of the resolution as presented (all Board members stood 7-0). There were no family members present to accept the resolution. Clerk Susanne Stallings stated she would send the family a copy of the resolution as adopted.

Resolution

Chowan County, North Carolina

100TH BIRTHDAY OF FLORA L. BANKS

WHEREAS, longevity of life is a blessing for an individual and for a community which benefits from the knowledge, creativity, and experiences this individual brings to all; and

WHEREAS, Chowan County recognizes the contribution of senior citizens to our community and the important role they serve in our society; and

WHEREAS, Chowan County senior citizens have earned the respect and admiration of all the citizens of the County for their knowledge, wisdom, and community spirit; and

WHEREAS, Flora L. Banks was born on February 10, 1910 in Bertie County and resided in Chowan County most of her life. She raised 3 children and one grandchild; she is the grandmother of 12. She has been described as warm, giving, considerate, a people person all the while she has been supportive of her husband, children, church family and community and on this day should be honored for her 100 years on this Earth; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CHOWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, extends its sincere congratulations and best wishes to Ms. Flora L. Banks on the occasion of her 100th Birthday.

This 1st day of March 2010.

Resolution – Green March 2010

Dennis Robinson, 102 Terry Avenue, Edenton stated that the Chowan/Edenton Environmental Group has requested the Board's consideration of a resolution declaring March 2010 as Green March where the group will be offering several events during the month of March 2010 including a "Green Fair".

Being no further discussion, Commissioner Alligood moved that the Board approve the resolution as presented. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Resolution for Green March, 2010

WHEREAS, the mission of the Chowan/Edenton Environmental Group is designed to give concerned citizens in the area the opportunity to meet regularly for the purpose of addressing all matters related to the environmental health of our community and to educate and encourage the residents of Chowan County to become good stewards of the earth; and,

WHEREAS, the Chowan/Edenton Environmental Group has offered several events over the past three years, including Green Energy Fairs in 2008 and 2009; and,

WHEREAS, the Chowan/Edenton Environmental Group will be offering several events during the month of March 2010, including a Green Fair; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Commissioners of Chowan County recognizes and fully supports the efforts of the Chowan/Edenton Environmental Group by declaring March 2010 as "Green March".

Chairman Goodwin then declared a 10 minute recess. After 10 minutes, he called the meeting back to order.

Child Support Enforcement Privatization

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin state that the Finance Sub Committee has reviewed and recommended acceptance of a proposal from Young and Williams for the privatization of Child Support Enforcement Services in Chowan County. He asked for Bob Johnson and Carla West of Young Williams to make their presentation.

Bob Johnson stated that Young Williams has been in the Child Support business for 20 years. He stated that their company works with counties all over the country. He stated that there are counties in North Carolina which utilize the services of Young Williams (New Hanover County and Beaufort County). He stated that the company is committed to hiring County staff at the same pay rate as current with an annual 3% cost of living increase annually.

Commissioner Cole stated his concern about the current employees being hired by the company.

Mr. Johnson said that Young Williams would interview and retain Chowan employees.

Commissioner Cole asked if Young Williams had a working relationship with the current DSS employees.

Mr. Johnson said there currently was not one. He stated that if contracted with Chowan County his firm would report either to the DSS Board or the Board of Commissioners. He stated that this is a policy made by the County.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin noted that three options were presented to the Finance Sub Committee that either kept child support in house (Chowan DSS), Young Williams utilizes space in Chowan DSS offices and contracts with the County, or Young Williams leases space in Town.

Mr. Johnson noted that some preliminary research has been done on office space in Town. He stated that the firm would obtain space by July 1, 2010 in Town.

Commissioner Alligood asked for a description of the process when a client requests services from Young Williams.

Ms. West detailed the federal and state mandates for their program and the processes.

Commissioner Belfield asked for clarification on the standards for Young Williams.

Ms. West stated that their company follows the same protocol as local governments when providing the service.

Commissioner Cole asked if the Finance Sub Committee felt that Young Williams could go above and beyond the services provided in Chowan County DSS.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin stated that he felt privatization was more efficient than public.

Commissioner Cole asked for clarification from Mr. Goodwin.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin stated that currently Chowan DSS is utilizing 5 employees and Young Williams proposes to use 4. He stated that he was informed that the additional employee may transfer into another DSS department if the county were to contract with Young Williams.

DSS Director, Clifton Hardison stated that he was asked to review the numbers for the proposal. He stated that when he began the review of Child Support Enforcement, he determined that removal of one position in Child Support would increase the reimbursement. He added that he also shared with the Committee that there was a miscommunication between DSS and Young Williams when they inquired of the number of staff currently at DSS. He stated that he worked a scenario with four case workers in DSS, with 66% federal reimbursement, the numbers work to the benefit of the County. He stated his expertise before coming to Chowan County in January was supervision of Child Support Enforcement (CSE). He stated that he would be able to increase performance of CSE in Chowan and in one year, he stated he could show increased revenue performance in Chowan CSE. He asked the Board for the opportunity to show them the work he would be able to do in Chowan DSS. He stated that his plan would be for 4 employees.

Mr. Johnson stated that Young Williams would bring county residents from Perquimans to Chowan County and bring two additional staff. He stated his company has won awards for their service and would also bring the collection numbers up. He stated that Young Williams wishes to be a part of the Chowan County community.

Commissioner Winborne asked if CSE were removed from DSS would Mr. Hardison be able to become more efficient in other areas of DSS, he also asked if Mr. Hardison's salary was tied to the number of staff he supervises.

Mr. Hardison stated that his expertise is in management, and that his salary was set when he was hired.

Commissioner Nixon asked if Young Williams guarantees an office in Chowan County in the contract.

Mr. Johnson stated that there would be an office in Chowan County.

Commissioner Nixon asked what other counties plan to contract with Young Williams.

Mr. Johnson stated that he heard Bertie, Camden, Dare, Currituck, Gates and Perquimans will enter into contract negotiations.

Commissioner Cole asked if this would be an annual contract.

Mr. Johnson stated the fee is based on the number of cases.

Mr. Rascoe clarified that the contract calls for a base price for the first year regardless of the case load.

Commissioner Alligood stated that the comments from the DSS Director made him feel that he could do it for less if given a year he stated he felt the Board should consider it.

Commissioner Nixon stated that Perquimans County has requested an office in Chowan for their clients.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin stated that Young Williams has 4-7 positions, rents a local building, interviews and hires the current employees and reduces the size of government and he felt it was time to vote on the matter.

Commissioner Alligood asked if there are problems with the current staff.

Commissioner Belfield asked if the staff meets Mr. Hardison's standards.

Mr. Hardison stated that the staff was above average in performance and that he did see areas for improvement, but he found ways in reviewing CSE in DSS to increase collections to the benefit of the citizens of Chowan County. He stated he feels he could save the county \$34,000 in one year. He said he wanted the Board to make their decision and he felt he has done his job providing them with the information that was requested.

Commissioner Nixon asked Mr. Rascoe if the contract would come back before the Board once negotiated.

Mr. Rascoe said yes, and would include the stipulations for a local office and DSS staff.

Commissioner Winborne stated that he would recommend that the manager negotiate the contract and allow the Board to see it.

Mr. Rascoe asked Mr. Johnson if time was a factor for Young Williams.

Mr. Johnson stated that he would need 6 weeks to set up an office.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked if the terms could be included.

Mr. Johnson said their proposal would have an office in Chowan County.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin stated he did want to see that in the contract.

Commissioner Alligood asked if the office in Chowan would be manned full time.

Mr. Johnson said it would be a minimum of 4 full time staff with computers and equipment.

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board approve the contract to include a stipulation for a local office.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed (4-3 Cole, Alligood, Belfield).

Internal Committee Reports

Finance Sub Committee –

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin stated that the Finance Sub Committee met on Wednesday, February 24, 2010. He stated the Committee made the following recommendation:
Appointment of H.F. Byrum Jr. to fill the vacant seat on the Fireman's Relief Fund.

Being no discussion, Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Planning/ Enterprise Committee-

Commissioner Keith Nixon reported that the Planning and Enterprise Committee met on Tuesday February 23, 2010. He stated that the committee reviewed preliminary drawings for the office consolidation at the Public Safety Center. He said no recommendation was made. He stated that in order to explore other possibilities for the Mental Health Building, and in planning for the relocation of the DSS offices, He stated that the Committee made the following recommendation:

Authorize the County Manager to explore all options regarding the Chowan Life Center Building and former Mental Health Building, notwithstanding that the Department of Veterans Affairs is still considering the Board's lease proposal.

He added that each of the Board members has a copy of a letter from Mr. Jerry Parks.

Being no further discussion on the recommendation, Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Human Services Committee – no meeting in February

Public Safety – no meeting in February

External Board/Committee Reports

Chairman Eddy Goodwin stated that the Board members are asked to report on the activities of the external boards to which they have been appointed.

Commissioner Cole reported that a candidate has been selected for COA President to begin in April 2010. He stated that the Hospital Directors Council continues to recruit physicians. He stated the DSS Board received a report of the growing number of clients affected by the economy. He stated that the DSS Board is pleased with the work of Mr. Hardison.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked if there have been discussions of the pay for the Chancellor.

Commissioner Cole stated the salary was negotiated by a committee, and the commitment was not much more for Chowan since Chowan has a campus with a Dean. He stated the committee is aware of Chowan's fiscal status.

Commissioner Belfield provided the Chairman with a written account of his external committee activities.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin read that the COA presented success stories of graduates and March 12th was the deadline for private scholarship applications. The Health Department reports several state funding cuts in programs and the Health Department Director is providing the Board of Commissioners a letter with comments on various proposals for office consolidations.

Commissioner Allgood stated that the TDA Board met on February 23, 2010 and considered a resolution in opposition to the release of occupancy tax for online booking. He presented the resolution for the Board's consideration.

Being no further discussion on the resolution, Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

CHOWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE ROOM OCCUPANCY TAX

WHEREAS, in FY08-09, \$109,120 thousand was collected in Room Occupancy Tax in Chowan County; and

WHEREAS, room occupancy tax in Chowan County funds tourism, an industry that brings more visitors and dollars to local communities that benefit a multitude of small businesses, including hotels, restaurants, retail merchants, attractions, and more; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the economic impact from domestic travel in Chowan County was estimated at \$18.09 million; and provided more than 160 jobs and generated \$2.07 million in state and local tax receipts; and

WHEREAS, sales tax in Chowan County funds County operations including education, public safety, and human service programs; and

WHEREAS, most destination marketing organizations, and State and local governments are already operating on strained budgets and facing fiscal crises; and reducing or eliminating taxes for online travel companies would further cut vital funding to local governments that will result in job losses, service cutbacks, and severe reductions in tourism promotion; and

WHEREAS, reducing or eliminating online travel companies' taxes would provide them an unfair competitive advantage by providing them preferential tax treatment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes any action which impacts local governments' ability to levy taxes on rooms that are marketed through online travel companies.

ADOPTED this the 1st day of March, 2010.

Soil & Water Annual Report

Scott Alons Soil and Water District Technician provided the Board with an update of the activities of Soil and Water for the past year. (A copy of the PowerPoint is in the meeting file labeled March 1, 2010)

Register of Deeds Annual Report

Register of Deeds Sue Rountree provided the Board with an update of the activities of the Register of Deeds Office for the past year. (A copy of the PowerPoint is in the meeting file labeled March 1, 2010)

Tax - Late Listing Appeal

Chairman Eddy Goodwin noted this item would be postponed at the appellant's request.

Finance Officer Report

Finance Officer Lisa Jones provided the Cash Balance Summary and Cash and Investment balance information for the month of January noting a total of \$7,307,933 total cash and investments. She shared information on the General Fund Revenue/Expenses, Special Revenue Funds, and Enterprise Funds. (A copy of the report is in the meeting file labeled March 1, 2010). She noted that there are large debt service payments due in March and that she may have to draw down to cover cash flow.

EMS Profitability Study

She presented a request from the Finance Sub Committee for Martin Starnes and Associates to perform a profitability study for EMS operations in Chowan County. The cost was negotiated to be in the amount of \$2,000 and work would begin on March 29, 2010 and be completed for consideration in the FY 2010-11 budget.

Commissioner Nixon added that this came about because outside transport companies have requested to be allowed to transport patients out of the County. He stated he felt this is part of the Finance Sub Committee's due diligence. He then moved that the Board approve the study and fund the study with monies if available in the EMS budget.

Ms. Jones stated that the budget could absorb the costs.

Commissioner Alligood clarified that this is a feasibility study for emergency and non emergency transports.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin stated yes.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Manager's Report

County Manager Peter Rascoe provided the Manager's Report highlighting the following topics:

- The VA Clinic called to clarify specific items in the County's proposal and stated the County would know something by the end of the month.
- Retreat for budget planning is scheduled for March 25, 2010
- Meetings with one adjoining county have taken place to discuss and explore options for new technology for remedying the violation at the Valhalla Water Plant Discharge.
- The County/Town Economic Development Committee will meet the next day with a consultant and begin fast track work with a study group
- TDA met and approved the proposed budget for FY 2010-11. After meeting with Hwy 17 Association and learning of their efforts to designate heritage corridors, Chowan County has not been a member in 3 years, he will speak with the TDA director and look in the TDA Budget and see if there are options for joining the Hwy 17 Association with TDA funds.
- The Fishing Pier is on schedule and proposes to be open in May. The building is progressing. Mr. Rascoe shared a picture of a design to put a shad boat on display at the pier for interpretation

Timely and Important Matters

Chairman Eddy Goodwin stated that he received citizen concerns over road closings by DOT for replacing culverts. He asked the Manager to call DOT to discuss what he felt was poor planning and notifications of the residents.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Edward C. Goodwin, Chairman

L. Susanne Stallings, Clerk